

SCR & SER Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

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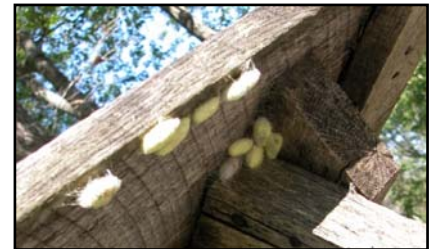
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Eastern tent caterpillars started to pupate



An eastern tent caterpillar tent on oak

The eastern tent caterpillar started to spin a cocoon by the end of May. This spring, the population of the caterpillar was much higher in some areas compared to last year. Reports of infestations came from Columbia, Dane, Green, Sauk, and Walworth Cos. Severe infestations were observed near the Wisconsin Dells area, including Columbia, Adams and Marquette Cos. In some localized areas, understory cherry trees were completely defoliated. In these areas, caterpillars started to meander on paved roads to look for more food, and drivers could hear popping sounds when caterpillars were squished.



ETC pupae under a picnic table



An ETC pupa on a pine tree

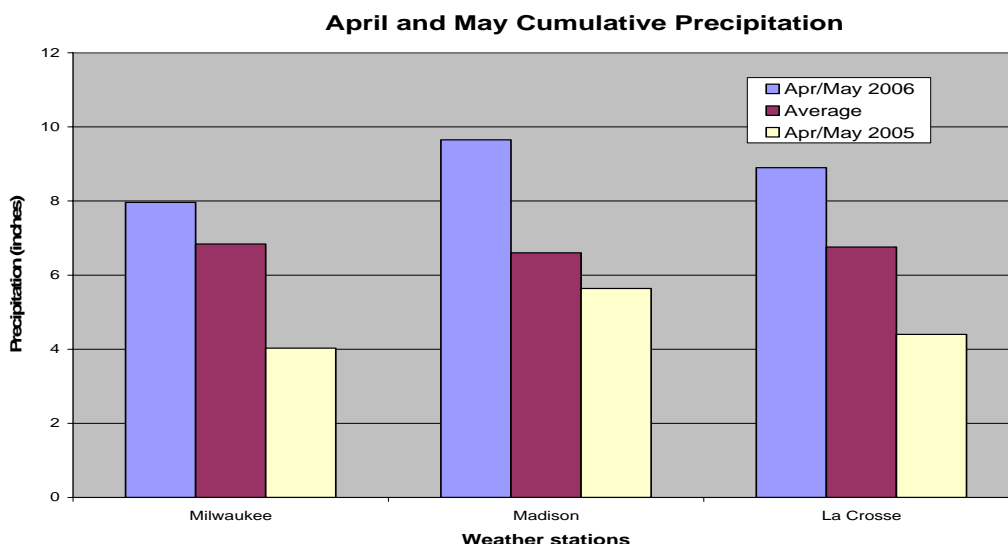
The good news is that feeding for this year is near completion and caterpillars started to pupate. The cocoon of the eastern tent caterpillar is about 1 inch long and made of yellowish silk with threads to secure the cocoon. Cocoons can be found anywhere. They could be under a picnic table or on pine needles. The adult moth will emerge in a few weeks to mate and lay eggs. The moth is reddish-brown with two whitish lines on the wings.

Spring shower brings anthracnose



As you may have noticed, this spring, precipitation for April and May was above average as shown on a chart for major weather stations (Milwaukee, Madison, LaCrosse, Green Bay). Cool and wet conditions in the spring create a great environment for the spore production and spread of various fungi. Recently anthracnose has been observed on tree leaves, especially on ash, oak, and hickory,

throughout SCR and SER. Infected leaves show irregular necrotic spots or blotches. Severe infection could cause leaves to curl and twist, and prematurely drop to the ground. In most cases, anthracnose does not seriously affect the health of the trees and control is not necessary, except for general maintenance of tree vigor.



In a yard situation, raking and removal of infected leaves in the fall is one way to reduce fungal populations for the next spring. There are UW Extension factsheets about anthracnose that are nice to hand out to concerned homeowners. They are available through UW Extension website at <http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/XHT1001b.pdf> (with a photo of infected oak leaves) <http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/XHT1001a.pdf> (with a photo of infected maple leaves) <http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/X1001C.pdf> (with a photo of infected ash leaves).

Triple problems on oak leaves



Oak leaves infected with Anthracnose

This spring, many oak leaves don't look very healthy. Many of them are infected with anthracnose, and others suffer from oak tatters and late frost. Some trees may have all of the three problems. How can you differentiate frost from anthracnose? Anthracnose starts with small brown spots on newly formed leaves, and later necrotic spots merge and enlarge. With frost damage, the entire leaf may be affected on some leaves while nearby leaves may appear normal. In general, lower crown is more severely affected with anthracnose, while frost damage may appear on any part of the crown or over the entire crown. However, as mentioned above, one tree could have both frost and anthracnose, and possibly oak tatters.

Gypsy moth update

As of June 3rd gypsy moth larvae were in 3rd and 4th instars in Dane and Columbia Counties. Preliminary site checks of hot spots in these two counties indicate a smaller population of caterpillars than expected. Early cool weather and spring rains may have reduced the numbers for this year. Over the next 2-3 weeks calls on nuisance level caterpillars may still be received. There is also the possibility for some localized areas of light to moderate defoliation. One report of a few

egg masses and larvae in a young red oak plantation was received from the Pewaukee area in Southeast region.

Gypsy moth suppression spraying was completed on Monday, May 22nd this year. Western counties in South Central region can anticipate additional spraying with pheromone flakes in July when the adult moths emerge. Stay tuned for updates.

Other pests reported

European pine sawfly - Colonies were observed on Scotch pine in a Christmas tree plantation in Waukesha Co. and a small red pine planting in Columbia County.

Maple petiole borer - Infestations by this insect were reported in Columbia Co.

Euonymus caterpillar - the caterpillar was actively feeding on spindle tree Euonymus in the Beloit area of Rock County.

Please report to us

We appreciate reports of forest health problems in your areas. Currently, there is no regional forest health specialist assigned in SCR or SER. At this point, please contact the following staff for regional forest health problems/questions. Thank you.

For general forest health issues

Jane Cummings-Carlson (northern part of SER) 608-275-3273

Kyoko Scanlon (southern part of SER, and SCR) 608-275-3275

For gypsy moth

Andrea Diss (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

Mark Guthmiller (SCR/SER) 608-275-3223

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803

Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov>

About the newsletter

“SCR & SER Forest Health Update” is an informal newsletter created by the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide foresters in the South Central Region and Southeastern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. This newsletter will be issued monthly during the growing season and on an irregular basis during winter as topics come up. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter and your reports on forest health problems you observed in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Kyoko Scanlon at Kyoko.Scanlon@dnr.state.wi.us.

Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER and WCR are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/intheNews/index.htm>.